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CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A method in a data processing system for redirecting a data stream, the method comprising:
- responsive to detecting a request from a terminal, sending a signal to a hardware switch to redirect the data stream from being sent through a first port to a
- 10 processor;
- packetizing the data stream for transmission over a second port to form a packetized data stream; and sending the packetized data stream to a destination over the second port.
- 15 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the first port is a RS-232 standard port.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the data stream is a
- 20 RS-232 standard data stream.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the packets are formed for transfer using a TCP/IP protocol.
- 25 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the second port provides a connection to a local area network.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the data stream is an outgoing data stream further comprising:
- 30 receiving an incoming data stream, wherein the incoming data stream is packetized; and

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unpacketizing the incoming data stream to form an
unpacketized incoming data stream; and

sending the unpacketized incoming data stream to an
input/output unit associated with the first port.

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7. A method in a data processing system for redirecting
a data stream normally sent to a default port, the method
comprising:

receiving a request to send the data stream to a
10 terminal communicating with the data processing system
using a desired port;

sending a signal to a hardware switch to redirect
the data stream to a service processor;

packetizing the data stream to form a set of data
15 packets; and

sending the set of data packets to the terminal
using the desired port.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the set of data
20 packets is a first set of data packets and further
comprising:

receiving a second set of data packets from the
terminal; and

unpacketizing the second set of data packets to form
25 an unpacketized data stream; and

sending the unpacketized data stream to the hardware
switch.

9. The method of claim 7, wherein the desired port
30 provides a connection to a local area network.

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10. The method of claim 7, wherein the terminal is a hardware system console.

11. A data processing system comprising:

- 5 a bus system;
 a first communications unit connected to the bus system;
 a second communications unit connected to the bus system;
- 10 a switch having a connection to the first communications unit, wherein the switch redirects a data stream intended for an output in the first communications unit to an alternate destination in response to a signal;
- 15 a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the memory includes a set of instructions; and
 a processing unit connected to the bus system, wherein the processing unit executes the set of instructions to send a signal to the switch to redirect the data stream from the output of the first
- 20 communications unit to the processor in response to detecting a request from a terminal; packetize the data stream to form a packetized data stream; and send the packetized data stream to a destination through the second communications unit.

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12. The data processing system of claim 11, wherein the bus system is a single bus.

13. The data processing system of claim 11, wherein the bus system includes a primary bus and a secondary bus.

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14. The data processing system of claim 11, wherein the processing unit includes a plurality of processors.

15. The data processing system of claim 11, wherein the second communications unit is one of a modem and Ethernet adapter.

16. The data processing system of claim 11, wherein the first communications unit is a RS-232 port.

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17. A data processing system for redirecting a data stream, the data processing system comprising:

first sending means, responsive to detecting a request from a terminal, for sending a signal to a hardware switch to redirect the data stream from being sent through a first port to a processor;

packetizing means for packetizing the data stream for transmission over a second port to form a packetized data stream; and

second sending means for sending the packetized data stream to a destination over the second port.

18. The data processing system of claim 17, wherein the first port is a RS-232 standard port.

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19. The data processing system of claim 17, wherein the data stream is a RS-232 standard data stream.

20. The data processing system of claim 17, wherein the packets are formed for transfer using a TCP/IP protocol.

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21. The data processing system of claim 17, wherein the second port provides a connection to a local area network.

- 5 22. The data processing system of claim 17, wherein the data stream is an outgoing data stream further comprising:

receiving means for receiving an incoming data stream, wherein the incoming data stream is packetized;

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unpacketing means for unpacketing the incoming data stream to form an unpacketed incoming data stream; and

15 third sending means for sending the unpacketed incoming data stream to an input/output unit associated with the first port.

23. A data processing system for redirecting a data stream normally sent to a default port, the data processing system comprising:

receiving means for receiving a request to send the data stream to a terminal communicating with the data processing system using a desired port;

25 first sending means for sending a signal to a hardware switch to redirect the data stream to a service processor;

packetizing means for packetizing the data stream to form a set of data packets; and

30 second sending means for sending the set of data packets to the terminal using the desired port.

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24. The data processing system of claim 23, wherein the set of data packets is a first set of data packets, the receiving means is a first receiving means, and further comprising:

5 second receiving means for receiving a second set of data packets from the terminal; and

 unpacketizing means for unpacketizing the second set of data packets to form an unpacketized data stream; and

10 third sending means for sending the unpacketized data stream to the hardware switch.

25. The data processing system of claim 23, wherein the desired port provides a connection to a local area network.

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26. The data processing system of claim 23, wherein the terminal is a hardware system console.

27. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for redirecting a data stream, the computer program product comprising:

20 first instructions, responsive to detecting a request from a terminal, for sending a signal to a hardware switch to redirect the data stream from being sent through a first port to a processor;

 second instructions for packetizing the data stream for transmission over a second port to form a packetized data stream; and

30 third instructions for sending the packetized data stream to a destination over the second port.

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28. The computer program product of claim 27, wherein the first port is a RS-232 standard port.

29. The computer program product of claim 27, wherein
5 the data stream is a RS-232 standard data stream.

30. The computer program product of claim 27, wherein the packets are formed for transfer using a TCP/IP protocol.

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31. The computer program product of claim 27, wherein the second port provides a connection to a local area network.

15 32. The computer program product of claim 27, wherein the data stream is an outgoing data stream further comprising:

fourth instructions for receiving an incoming data stream, wherein the incoming data stream is packetized;

20 and

fifth instructions for unpacketizing the incoming data stream to form an unpacketized incoming data stream; and

25 sixth instructions for sending the unpacketized incoming data stream to an input/output unit associated with the first port.

33. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for redirecting a data stream normally sent to a
30 default port, the computer program product comprising:

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first instructions for receiving a request to send the data stream to a terminal communicating with the data processing system using a desired port;

second instructions for sending a signal to a
5 hardware switch to redirect the data stream to a service processor;

third instructions for packetizing the data stream to form a set of data packets; and

fourth instructions for sending the set of data
10 packets to the terminal using the desired port.

34. The computer program product of claim 33, wherein the set of data packets is a first set of data packets and further comprising:

15 fifth instructions for receiving a second set of data packets from the terminal; and

sixth instructions for unpacketizing the second set of data packets to form an unpacketized data stream; and

seventh instructions for sending the unpacketized
20 data stream to the hardware switch.

35. The computer program product of claim 33, wherein the desired port provides a connection to a local area network.

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36. The computer program product of claim 33, wherein the terminal is a hardware system console.